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INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS

A SERIES OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE AMERICAN ABORIGINES

TWO ANTLER SPOONS FROM ONTARIO

BY

ALANSON SKINNER

NEW YORK
MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
HEYE FOUNDATION
1920

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THIS series of INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS is devoted primarily to the publication of the results of studies by members of the staff of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, and is uniform with HISPANIC NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS, published by the Hispanic Society of America, with which organization this Museum is in cordial coöperation.

TWO ANTLER SPOONS FROM ONTARIO

BY

ALANSON SKINNER

TWO ANTLER SPOONS FROM ONTARIO

By Alanson Skinner

THE two carved antler spoons shown in the accompanying plate were obtained from graves in Attiwandaron or Neutral cemeteries, *a* having been discovered at Saint Davids, Ontario, and *b* in a burial ground on the shore of Lake Medad, in Wentworth county, near Hamilton, Ontario. Bone and antler spoons, while known in New York and Ontario as products of the western Iroquoian tribes, are by no means common, since the natives preferred spoons of wood and bark, or even used the unworked shells of freshwater clams.

A few bone and antler spoons from New York and Canada have been illustrated, but all are squat and broad-bowled, like

the wooden forms still in use among the Iroquois. The specimens here shown, on the contrary, are long and slender, and the handle of *a*, from its wavy outline, may have been intended to represent a snake. Fig. *b* is also neatly carved, and in beauty surpasses any similar objects in the collections of the museums of either Canada or New York.

Consult: BEAUCHAMP, William M., Horn and Bone Implements of the New York Indians, *Bulletin 50, New York State Museum*, p. 315, Albany, 1902.

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